BENGALURU, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

Happy New Year

TEMP Max 27 | Min 18 | Humidity 53% Partly Cloudy | Sensex 72,240 | Nifty 21,731 | Gold 63,181 | Silver 74,440 | Dollar 83.25 | Euro 92.04 | GBP 106.60

Additional 90 km of footpaths planned for 2024 'to ensure pedestrian safety and convenience'

THE YEAR OF THE PEDESTRIAN

BBMP will whitetop 43 roads, spanning 160 km

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

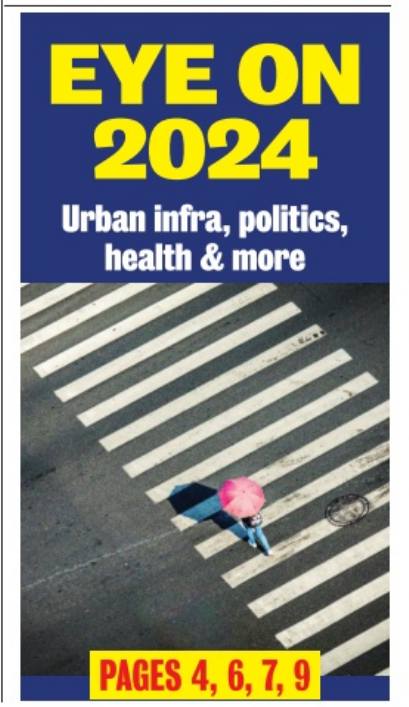
The most basic demand of Bengalureans is to have better and walkable footpaths. The civic agency Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has claimed that 2024 will be the beginning of developing better footpaths in the city.

Chief engineer (road and infrastructure) of BBMP, BS Prahalad, told Bangalore Mirror that the municipal body will be developing 90 km of footpaths. These works will be undertaken utilising grants from the 15th finance commission. "Footpaths are one of the biggest problems of Bengaluru. With the growth of population, there has not only been an increase in the usage of vehicles but the number of pedestrians has also seen a proportional increase. Our priority in the upcoming year will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Our priority this year will be to provide good footpaths similar to the Tender SURE model...

— BS Prahalad, chief engineer, BBMP



ADVT.

JALAYOGA STAR

World Book of Record holder in Jalayoga Dr Savitha Rani.M. was awarded JALAYOGA STAR OF INDIA during the programme Meri Mitti Matrabhumi. The award was presented by the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra Shri Ramesh Bais in Rajbhavan, Mumbai on 29th Dec 2023. Dr Savitha Rani.M. is the employee of Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore .

12 Off on a vacation
B-Town's power couple Katrina, Vicky are off to celebrate New Year's Eve

BangaloreMirror | 2
Monday, January 1, 2024
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Scenes from Church Street, which was bustling with neon as citizens gathered in the thousands to send 2023 off in a resounding manner

Party-poppers

As city's festive spirits were high, police too were seen to be on their toes

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timegroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

As woes of the pandemic lockdown waned from memory, Bengaluru was all gung-ho to return to an extravagant New Year's celebration at key areas such as MG Road and Brigade Road.

The festive mood of the multitude of party-goers, consumers and cultural enthusiasts seem to light up city centres bustling with breweries, cafés and shopping complexes.

The police in the city also made sure that the law enforcement helps everyone to enjoy safely.

As the police geared up for an influx of approximately two lakh people, particularly in popular areas such as MG Road and Brigade Road, the streets saw hundreds of cameras and even some drones.

Full surveillance

To manage the crowds and ensure the safety of the public, 8,000 police officials were deployed across the city, supported by a network of over 300 temporary CCTV cameras strategically placed in key locations, of MG Road and Brigade Road. Enhancing the efficiency of security operations, a mobile control room and command centre, along with watch towers, was integral to overseeing the festivities.

The city's safety was further insured by the presence of 18 IPS rank officers who were closely supervising the security arrangements. In a bid to regulate the festivities responsibly, the police had mandated the closure of liquor shops by 11 pm, while other retail establishments remained open until 1 am. The surveillance network was extended to the skies with the use of 10 drone cameras covering a 2-km radius, contributing to comprehensive monitoring by the police.

To manage the crowds and ensure the safety of the public, 8,000 police officials were deployed across the city, supported by a network of over 300 temporary CCTV cameras strategically placed in key locations

Women's safety

As many people on the streets, especially women were concerned about their safety, the police, prioritising women's safety, designated "women safety islands" at major hubs, offering various forms of assistance to women throughout the celebration.

"There are three to four cameras every 50 metres and the police have created dedicated walkways for women with barricades. Also, there are visible tents for people who are distressed or sick and want to seek help, so as of now the preparations look promising," said a woman.

> **"There are three to four cameras every 50 metres and the police have created dedicated walkways for women with barricades**
>
> –Woman party-goer

A policeman present at Church Street told BM that this extensive surveillance aims to monitor celebrations and promptly identify any suspicious activities. Law enforcement officials highlight the efficacy of these cameras in facilitating swift action by enabling the quick retrieval of recorded footage. Moreover, to increase surveillance capabilities, drones equipped with 360-degree viewing capabilities were also deployed. A source claimed the advanced features of the CCTV system include facial recognition and the ability to identify licence plates.

Driving under influence

Additionally, to deter driving under the influence, multiple checkpoints have been set up strategically. For the first time, Bengaluru police said that they will be running blood tests on commuters involved in accidents during new year's to check for alcohol and drug abuse. From the past one week the city traffic police is vigilant regarding the DUI cases and from December 21 to 30, the police have checked more than 27,280 vehicles and booked a total of 717 drivers who were found drunk while driving.

"In order to ensure that dangerous accidents due to drunk and drive are prevented at year end, the drive will continue and we have placed checkpoints at all key locations," said the police.

Along with that despite towing being made illegal in the city, police declared that automobiles wrongfully parked on restricted routes would be towed away considering that parking was not allowed at certain places.

Predators at large

372 cases of child rape in city points to 9.1% rise in such cases in 2022

| Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru faced a concerning reality as 472 girl child victims were reported under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 2022. Shockingly, 372 of these cases involved child rape, contributing to a distressing crime rate of 9.1 for child rape in the city. Additionally, data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed that, in the same year, no boy was reported as a victim under the POCSO Act in Bengaluru.

However, the numbers are more concerning for 2023 because, as per the data by the Karnataka state police, as of October 2023, the city has already recorded 411 cases under the POCSO act. Even Karnataka, in 2023, has reported more than 3,000 cases in just 10 months. The state is recording more than 200 cases under POCSO every month.

Even in 2022, as per the NCRB data, sexual assault incidents were prevalent, with the city recording 87 such cases involving 90 victims, resulting in a crime rate of 2.1. Additionally, Bengaluru documented four cases of sexual harassment under Section 12 of the POCSO Act and four incidents involving the use of children for creating pornographic content.

The NCRB data highlighted a broader issue across metropolitan cities in 2022. A staggering 3,900 cases from the previous year remained pending, while an alarming 6,421 new cases were reported in 2022. This placed a significant burden on law enforcement, with over 10,000 cases requiring investigation nationwide in metro cities.

> **“The city only has one or two dedicated courts for POCSO matters, and considering the number of cases, it is not enough. The legal process in criminal matters for such sensitive issues is still considerably slow**

Unreported cases

“Most of the POCSO matters still go unreported, but the ones that are reported take a lot of time for conviction as well. The city only has one or two dedicated courts for POCSO matters, and considering the number of cases, it is not enough. The legal process in criminal matters for such sensitive issues is still considerably slow.

There are times when a matter is stuck at the stage of summons or evidence. Although the new criminal laws are about to be effective, it still has to be seen whether the new criminal procedure makes the process more efficient,” a lawyer told BM.

Metro has started painting town Pink

Texmaco Rail and Engineering Ltd began to cast the track plinth inside the underground tunnels of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited’s (BMRCL) Pink Line (Reach 6) on Saturday.

The Pink Line will connect Nagawara and Kalena Agrahara. The Phase 2 project measures 73.92 km with the underground section spanning 13.885 km. This section will connect South Ramp situated to the south of the Dairy Circle Station, with Nagawara Station via twin tunnels and 12 underground stations.

According to the newsletter released by BMRCL in December 2023, 20.11% of the track plinth casting work has been finished. This has been undertaken on the 7.5-km elevated section connecting South Ramp, Jayadeva, Kalena Agrahara. Construction work of viaducts is ongoing at these locations by GR Infraprojects.

In July 2018, the BMRCL had awarded Texmaco with the track-work contract of Phase 2 projects worth Rs 521.76 crore. They are given the responsibility of installing ballastless tracks within all the elevated viaducts as well as tunnel and ballasted tracks within the project’s 5 new depots. **BMB**

Exotic animal kingdom

Bannerghatta Biological Park plans to bring in host of new animals such as jaguars, pumas

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The process of getting animals such as jaguars and puma is long and requires various permits. These animals come from countries like South Africa, Singapore and the Czech Republic

If all goes to plan, Bengaloreans will most likely be treated to a view of exotic animals such as jaguar, puma, and hunting cheetah at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP). BBP authorities informed BM that the park will have as many as 15 new exotic animals for viewing in the coming year. As per the proposal, these will include two chimpanzees, six Hamadryas baboons, one giraffe, two jaguars, two pumas, and two hunting cheetahs in at least four new enclosures in the park area.

"We have plans to bring in new animals and will also be increasing the number of enclosures inside the park. Four new enclosures will be added to accommodate these animals. We want to provide our visitors with experiential travel and something new in the coming year. Also, the number of visitors at BBP has only been increasing day by day and we need to expand our facility simultaneously," said AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and executive director of BBP.

According to Sen, there has also been a demand for these animals per se by the visitors.

These animals will be imported from various countries and the project will take six to seven months before the animals are available for viewing.

"Visitors have been demanding to see exotic animals such as pumas and jaguars and thus we have decided to bring in these animals. However, the process of getting animals is a long one and requires various permits. All these animals will highly likely be coming in from countries like South Africa, Singapore, and the Czech Republic. Before they can arrive at BBP, we will need to do a lot of quarantines, acquire permissions at different levels, obtain no-objection certificates, and get trade clearances. While we will begin the process soon in the new year, it will take at least six to seven months for the animals to be available for viewing," added Sen.

Star kids

In its effort to enhance visitors' experience, BBP kicked off the holiday season with a daily guided tour showcasing newborn zoo animals at the park. Under the tour, visitors get to see the newborns of zebras, Hanuman langurs, and elephants. "Apart from raising awareness about these animals, the guided tour of newborn animals is also expected to enhance the level of appreciation among visitors, especially children. Also, the holiday seasons have begun and we want our children to learn about wildlife apart from enjoying the viewing," said a BBP staff member.

> **"Visitors have been demanding to see exotic animals such as pumas and jaguars and so we decided to bring in these animals**
> – AV Surya Sen, BBP

10 villages to get Cauvery water by May

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

If all goes according to plan, the residents in the periphery of the city may receive Cauvery water by May. According to the agreement with JICA for the 5th stage of water supply, the package was supposed to be completed by August 2023, but BWSSB wants to now aim at May 2024.

A senior official explained, "The Cauvery fifth stage of work faced delays due to the pandemic. The main pipeline in CP-9 and CP-10 packages is now installed in the city. Once the pipeline installation is complete, the road will be restored to its original structure. Administrative approval for the fifth stage of the Cauvery drinking water supply was granted on October 12, 2017, with a budget of Rs. 5,500 crore. JICA funded 84% of the project, while the State Government and BWSSB contributed 8% each. Upon completion, the city will receive more than 775 MLD of water daily."

Water tariff hike

This year may see water tariff hikes. Under the proposal, the water board seeks to raise the monthly tariff for domestic users by three to five percent for every 1,000 litres, while proposing an increase from five to eight percent for commercial usage. A senior BWSSB official said, "Inflation has impacted all sectors. BESCOM recently increased power tariffs, affecting our finances. We last revised tariffs in 2014." BWSSB officials added that since BESCOM raised its tariff, their monthly electricity bill has risen by Rs 1 crore.

More dialysis centres, focus on heart, mental health

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With a growing number of patients depending on dialysis, the health and family welfare department is planning to scale up the Dialysis centres to increase from existing 173 dialysis centers to 219 in the state. A health official said, "The dialysis centers will be in all district hospitals, taluk hospitals and 46 new taluks (CHCs) using single-use dialysers, effectively providing free dialysis services from December 2023. Four division wise dialysis tenders are invited. A file has been submitted to Nephro Care Health Services Pvt. Ltd for Dialysis Tender MOU for Bengaluru and Mysuru. DCDC Health Care Services Pvt. Ltd has been given Letter of Acceptance for Belagavi Division. Dialysis tender of Kalaburagi Division has been re-tendered and technical evaluation is being done. A total of 3,685 patients benefited under the programme and a total of 2,82,625 dialysis cycles have been conducted till November 2023."

Installation of AEDs

Karnataka had implemented ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) in coordination with Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences to help in cardiac emergencies through early detection and management at three hubs (district hospitals and medical colleges) and 45 spokes (taluka hospitals) in 15 districts. "In the current year, for the expansion of the program, Rs. 3 crore and for training and installation of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Rs. 2 crore has been allocated. As of April 2023, a total of 89,808 people had screened, 5,385 were with critical ECG's, among them 1,462 were STEMI cases who were treated at Jayadeva Tertiary Hospital," said an official. The Karnataka Ratna Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar Heart Attack Management STEMI Program plans to expand this scheme by setting up additional seven hubs and 41 spokes in remaining 16 districts.

Brain Health Initiative

Commissioner Health and Family Welfare Randeep D told Bangalore Mirror, "The Karnataka Brain health initiative was piloted in Jayanagar General Hospital, SNR Hospital Kolar and Chikkaballapur District Hospital in collaboration with NIMHANS. It was announced in the state budget to set up Brain Health clinics in 31 districts and 01 BBMP of the state as proposed in the state budget for the year 2023-24. As per Cabinet's administrative approval, a Government Order has been issued to expand the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative across the state. Accordingly, at present Brain Health Clinic establishment and human resource recruitment process is in progress in 31 districts and 01 BBMP of the state. As many as 25,600 beneficiaries have been served under the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (KaBHI) program in collaboration with NIMHANS."

Ayushman Bharat – Arogya Karnataka Programme

A total of Rs.1,079.29 crore has been sanctioned and 19,73,346 cases have been treated under Ayushman Bharat- Arogya Karnataka and Rs.1,129.36 crore has been spent. The total number of hospitals registered under the scheme are 3,483. So far 1.55 crore cards have been registered on the website of the National Health Authority and 22 lakh cards have been printed.

How rule of 72, rule of 114 can help you

Will investing Rs 1 lakh each year be enough for your future goals? Read on to know...

In this modern hustling world, every earning individual wants a safe place to store the earned money, and that's where Saving Account comes into play.

While saving and investing for future life goals like children's education, marriage and retirement, people are often worried whether they will be able to save enough money in the given time. When they park their hard-earned money in any instrument, one of the biggest questions they have is: How long will it take for this investment to grow? While there are mathematical methods and formulas, often they are too complex for many. However, what if we tell you that there is an easy way? That is right, there is a quick and easy way to estimate the future value of your investment — the rule of 72 and the rule of 114. The rule of 72 is an easy way to figure out how much time is needed to double your investment money. Similarly, the rule of 114 tells you approximately the number of years needed to triple your money. How do they work? ET Wealth Online explains it for you.

How to use the rule of 72 and rule of 114

To understand the rule of 72 formula, you need to divide 72 by the expected annual rate of return. For example, say you invest Rs 1 lakh every year in an investment that earns 8% interest annually. Now if you divide 72 by 8, you will get 9 which gives you the number of years it will take for your money to double. So, your investment will grow to Rs 2 lakh in nine years.

By extending this rule it is also easy to find out the time it will take your investment to quadruple. Instead of 72 you just need to use 144 (2 x 72 = 144). For instance, if your return is 9% you need to divide 144 by 9 and you will get 16. So, it will take 16 years for your money to grow 4 times if the annual return is 9%.

While using this formula for any investment, you must keep in mind that it gives you an estimate and the years are approximate.

Additionally, the rule of 72 formula can be applied across all kinds of durations provided the rate of return is compounded annually. If you get a 3% interest per quarter (interest is compounded quarterly), then it will take (72/3) = 24 quarters or six years to double the principal.

However, there is a limitation to the application of this rule. The rule of 72 usually works with common rates of return that are in the range of 5% to 12% and gives a close estimate of time to double the money.

If you earn returns outside of this range, you can use an adjusted rule of 71, 73, or 74, depending on

Rule of 72 is an easy way to figure out how much time is needed to double your investment money; rule of 114 tells you the number of years needed to triple it

the returns on your investment. Here is a simple thumb rule you can follow: For every three percentage points in increase, you generally add one to 72. So, if you earn a 15% interest rate, you can use the rule of 73 to estimate how many years are required to double your money.

Similarly, the rule of 114 will tell you how fast your money will triple. In this case, you need to divide 114 by the annual rate of return. For instance, you invest Rs 1 lakh in an instrument that earns 12% return per annum. If you divide 114 by 12, you will see that it will take 9.5 years to triple your investment.

For a return of 12% per annum, your invested money will double in 6 years, triple in 9.5 years and quadruple in 12 years. Similarly, at 9% interest, it will double in 8 years, triple in 12.67 years and quadruple in 16 years.

How inflation is eating up your savings: Use Rule of 72 and Rule of 114 to figure out

With inflation, the Rule of 72 works in reverse. You can use the same formula to determine when your cash will lose half of its purchasing power. To find out you just need to divide 72 and 114 by the annual inflation rate. For instance, if inflation is 6%, the value of money will be half after 12 years, it will be one-third after 19 years and one-fourth after 24 years.

— By Anulekha Ray, ET Online

BUSINESS
LOAN
Against mortgage of immovable property
Long Term & Easy Instalment Facilities.
RATE OF INTEREST
10% TO 12%
SYNDICATE FINANCE
(022) 3565 7754 / 2386 3781
(022) 4012 9088 / 2388 0634
Contact : 11 am to 5 pm
428, Rawal Bldg. No. 1, 1st Floor Lamington Road, Mumbai-400 004
E-mail : info@syndicatefinance.in | www.syndicatefinance.in

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank
ಕೋಟಕ್ ಮಹೀಂದ್ರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್
7.8% na milega dobara!
FIXED DEPOSITS at 7.8%* interest p.a.
for senior citizens.
*For a tenure of 23 months to less than 2 years & FD <₹2 Cr. Conditions Apply. Applicable only for Resident Senior Citizens.
"Senior" to 022-66006022 | kotak.com

Greener, cashless, safer bus rides this year

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Travelling in the BMTC buses will become 'greener' as the city transport is gearing up to embrace more electric vehicles this year. Transport Minister N Ramalinga Reddy said BMTC has big plans to increase the number of buses. "We want to increase the fleet up to at least 10,000 buses in a few years. There are many areas around Bengaluru like Ramnagara and Kanakapura which are not receiving sufficient buses. In 2024, we want to add at least 2000 buses," said Reddy. Currently, BMTC has around 390 EV buses and the numbers are expected to jump to 1,650 by March.

Double Decker buses

The double-decker buses will serve as city-tourism vehicles. As many as 20 buses have been approved by the board. In the previous year, the state government gave exemption from motor vehicle tax of Rs 541.87 crore for the four corporations and Rs 500 crore was allocated for the purchase of vehicles.

UPI payment

More buses will have UPI payment facility. "Often passengers complain of struggling to make ticket payments via cash. The result is likely to be seen within the next two to three months. The BMTC will also recruit 2,500 drivers and conductors this year," said an official.

Revamp

The 45-year-old Gandhinagar bus station is expected to get a revamp. With more than 10,000 passengers using the bus station, the revamp is to facilitate the increase in footfall. "With emphasis on women's safety Rs 37 crore will be allocated under the Nirbhaya scheme to install VTMS and CCTVs in buses. BMTC is also planning to increase the number of panic buttons. Previously, there used to be one or two panic buttons per bus and now the corporation is looking at installing a panic button under each chair," officials said.

Several electric buses have been added to BMTC fleet

Cruise control from B'luru to Chennai

Several stretches see substantial progress, making us hopeful it will be operational this year

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Karnataka stretch of Bengaluru-Chennai expressway is set to open up this year. NHAI officials said that stretches of the first expressway connecting Bengaluru to Chennai will become operational.

The Hoskote to Malur section, initiated on September 15, 2021, has seen substantial progress. Out of the 27.1 km stretch, 22.85 km has been successfully completed, with an estimated project completion date of March 31, 2024. The second stretch of the expressway, spanning from Malur to Bangarpet, sanctioned on December 18, 2020, commenced its construction on September 20, 2021. Over 21.49 km of the 27.1 km stretch has been accomplished, and it is anticipated to be open to traffic by March 31, 2024. Concluding the expressway's Karnataka segment, the stretch from Bangarpet to Bethamangala has seen good progress, with 16.37 km out of the 17.5 km stretch completed. The project is slated for completion by January 2024.

Hiriyur-Challakere highway

The Hiriyur-Challakere highway, a crucial link connecting Bengaluru to Ballari, has seen substantial progress. Initially sanctioned at Rs 1,167.52 crore for a 55.7 km stretch, this project commenced on January 29, 2021. With 43.8 km completed thus far, it is now estimated to conclude by April 30, 2024.

Port connectivity

The two-laning project between Aurad and Bidar, sanctioned at Rs 424.16 crore, is progressing steadily. This initiative spans 45.878 km, with 43.99 km completed so far. The six-lane greenfield highway from Badadal to Maradgi S Andola, costing Rs 2,355.56 crore, is currently underway. With a length of 71 km, this project is estimated to conclude by June 27, 2025, said an official.

B'luru-M'luru Road

"This project has been delayed due to numerous challenges as it passes through thick western ghats. As per the NHAI estimates, the four-laning project from Addahaole to Bantwal Cross, initially awarded at Rs 541.07 crore, has faced delays. Around 9.45 km out of 15.13 km is completed, but efforts are underway to expedite the remaining stretch, targeting completion by March 31, 2024. The second package, including the Kalladka town flyover, costing Rs 1,660.2 crore, has seen progress in 16.25 km of the 48.48 km stretch. Expected to be completed by October 31, 2024," an official said.

B'luru-Shivamogga stretch

The Bengaluru-Shivamogga route has experienced a significant surge in traffic. While the Bengaluru-Tumakuru stretch has undergone the transition from four lanes to the ongoing process of expanding to six lanes, the development between Tumakuru and Shivamogga is encountering delays. "The four-laning project from Mallasandra to Karadi Section was initiated on October 15, 2019. Out of the total 50.645 km stretch, an impressive 49.75 km has been successfully completed. The projected completion date for this segment is January 2024, with an expenditure of Rs 1,036.83 crore thus far. Four-laning of the Karadi to Banavara Section, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 1,505.85 crore on March 31, 2021, is progressing well. With work commencement on October 15, 2019, a substantial 51.52 km out of the total 56.705 km stretch has been accomplished. The anticipated completion date for this phase is January 2024.

The four-laning of the Banavara to Bettadahalli Section is making significant strides. Work commenced on March 15, 2021 and a noteworthy 42.94 km out of the 48.52 km stretch has been completed. The expected completion date for this segment is January 2024, with an expenditure of Rs 418.78 crore. The four-laning of the Bettadahalli to Srirampura Section, awarded at a cost of Rs 2,082.98 crore on March 31, 2021, has seen commendable progress. A substantial 26.09 km out of the total 50.975 km stretch has been completed. The anticipated completion date for this phase is October 31, 2024," said an official.

Haveri – Yekkambi – Sirsi project progress

The two-laning project with paved shoulders from Haveri to Yekkambi to Sirsi, initiated on September 25, 2021, is progressing steadily. Embarking on a 74.98-km journey, 4.85 km has been completed thus far, with an expected completion date within the year.

KSRTC to go hi-tech

KSRTC's cargo vehicles were launched recently in the city

The KSRTC is all set to embrace UPI payments. KSRTC officials said that passengers will also be able to make payments digitally. The corporation will be adding 9000 ETMS by March.

New design

KSRTC officials said that they now plan to introduce a new set of 'Sarige' buses this year. A KSRTC official said, "Aiming to provide more comfortable rides for ordinary passengers this year, KSRTC will be introducing redesigned Sariges with a new look. These buses will have bigger window frames to allow passengers to view the scenic routes. The buses will be equipped with better and more convenient seats The height of the bus has been increased to 3,420 m and will have 52 seating capacity. These buses will operate from the district headquarters to Bengaluru. Currently, 10 such buses are running on pilot routes."

Cargo Business

As a major source of non-fare revenue, KSRTC has already launched the cargo business. "KSRTC has inducted 20 vehicles that will provide cargo services in the transport of the fast-moving consumer goods sector. With a capacity of 6-7 tons, KSRTC will look at transporting textiles, pharma, food clusters, handloom products, seeds, and tourism," said an official.

Electric buses

Currently, KSRTC has 8,100 buses and plans to add 2,000 diesel buses to its fleet. While previously, EVs were used to facilitate journeys between districts, the new 300 EVs will run shorter routes under 100 km. These buses will connect Bengaluru to nearby areas and other shorter routes. "Around Rs 20 crore have been allocated for the development of a new KSRTC app similar to the BMTC app. The app will allow KSRTC passengers to look for buses along routes, plan journeys, and get fare estimates, complaint monitoring system, active response system, arrival and departure of buses, panic buttons, etc," said an official.

Stay alert, web of crime is getting more intricate

Report warns of skyrocketing cyber attacks, suggests organisations buck up, get up to the task

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru has created a record in the world of cyber crimes this year. But, experts say that cyber crimes may only increase if no action is taken. As per the latest survey, data breaches are expected to skyrocket. A report by CyberArk said that in 2023, India experienced a surge in these cyberattacks, leaving a trail of compromised personal information, disrupted operations, and eroded public trust.

In 2024, the company cautioned a sharp uptick in data breaches as the digital landscape expands, primarily because of the scale and diversity of attacks, which have impacted almost every sector, from government to healthcare to startups.

According to the report, "Ransomware attacks are expected to surge, surpassing the alarming 91% reported in 2022. As India's digital landscape expands and digital dependencies increase, we believe that organisations will pay significantly more to enable recovery. Organisations should gear up for an intensified wave, implementing robust backup and recovery strategies, and enhancing threat detection capabilities."

"Deepfakes will pose a looming threat: As the sophistication of deepfakes continue to advance, India is anticipated to witness a surge in deepfake-related cyber attacks

The report further said that as organisations migrate their data, applications, and workloads to the cloud, the attack surface widens, providing a broader canvas for threat actors to exploit.

Cloud environments, which are inherently dynamic and distributed, introduce identity and access management complexities. Organisations may also have less visibility and control over cloud resource access than in on-premises environments.

This can make it difficult to detect and prevent unauthorised access. Cloud environments often rely on shared credentials, such as passwords or API keys, to access resources. This can be a security risk if these credentials are compromised.

"An equally potent threat emerges for every positive stride made in the realm of artifical intelligence (AI). The dark side of AI can manifest in sophisticated cyber threats and malicious activities fuelled by the same technologies that are designed to enhance efficiency, automation, and decision-making.

As AI becomes more pervasive, adversaries will quickly capitalise on its capabilities, crafting new attack vectors that exploit vulnerabilities in novel ways," the report added.

2023 also saw concerns creeping up over deep fakes. The report said, "Deepfakes will pose a looming threat to India's cybersecurity in 2024: As the sophistication of deepfake technology continues to advance, India is anticipated to witness a surge in deepfake-related cyberattacks in 2024.

These attacks will target individuals, businesses, and even government institutions, aiming to spread misinformation, manipulate public opinion, and disrupt critical infrastructure.

The financial repercussions of these attacks could be severe, potentially leading to reputational damage, loss of investor confidence, and even economic instability.

To combat this growing threat, Indian organisations must invest in deepfake detection and mitigation technologies, raise awareness among their employees about the dangers of deep fakes, and develop robust cybersecurity strategies that can withstand these sophisticated attacks."

These predictions for 2024 underline the urgency for organisations to invest in cutting-edge technologies, raise awareness, and craft robust strategies that can withstand the onslaught of evolving cyber threats.

Everything's electric

Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) is intensifying efforts in 2024 to install fast-charging stations across all District Commissioner offices and State RTO offices. An official said, "A joint survey was conducted by BESCOM officials along with RTO/ARTO and ESCOM jurisdictional electrical and civil officials. Approval was granted by RTO for 12 feasible locations, and estimates were submitted on October 10, 2023. A revised estimate was submitted to the transport department for approval, either to reduce locations or allocate additional funds for the EV infrastructure at these 12 locations."

EV charging on highways

BESCOM is also gearing up for a pilot project involving EV fast-charging stations at 10 toll plazas along the Bengaluru–Pune Highway (NH-48) within Karnataka.

Solar-powered charging hub

BESCOM, in collaboration with GIZ and DULT, plans to establish a solar-powered EV Charging Hub near Kempegowda International Airport. The hub will feature solar panels and a 2nd-life battery storage system.

Revamping EV Mitra App

BESCOM envisions launching EV Mitra aiming for a unified EV app for the state. The features will encompass smart meter integration, smart charging profiles, WhatsApp integration, RFID integration, QR code integration, regional language support, appless EV charging, a multi-profile tariff mechanism, and geographically fetching EV data.

IP Sets Electrification Project

Another project involves the electrification of IP sets, with tenders invited in 2022-23 and 2023-24. A senior BESCOM official explained, "As per new guidelines, ESCOMs need to re-verify estimates prepared for providing electrical infrastructure to the IP sets. The infrastructure shall be created within 500 metres from the existing electrical network."

Traffic police to focus on crash control, easing jams

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With accidents continuing to rise in the city, traffic police say that their primary focus is on enhancing road safety, aiming to decrease fatal accidents by 25 percent as compared to 2023. They plan to embrace technology for data-driven decisions in traffic management and regulation.

"Exponential growth of vehicle population has led to increased traffic congestion and travel times. Several high traffic density corridors experience high levels of congestion during the peak hours in spite of several traffic easing measures being taken," MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told BM.

In 2023, Bengaluru faced a dire challenge as road accidents claimed over 800 lives, marking the highest toll in a decade. The alarming statistic by the traffic police reveals a pressing issue for traffic authorities, with 823 recorded deaths as of November.

Similarly, instances of prolonged congestion through the city like that of the Airport Road near Hebbal, causing hours of waiting time among commuters also became a big issue for the citizens this year.

In 2024, to enhance road safety and improve traffic management, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) South Traffic told BM that the foremost objective is the reduction of fatal and non-fatal accidents through strategic measures, stressing on black spot rectification and stringent enforcement.

Addressing the issue of traffic congestion, the DCP highlighted specific choke points such as Iblur, where efforts will be made to prevent jams and streamline the flow of vehicles. This targeted approach seeks to alleviate the daily problems faced by the commuters.

The DCP added that the police are also focusing on ensuring smooth traffic flow during peak hours and large-scale events. The police also said that the primary issue in the north division revolves around traffic congestion on Airport Road and Hebbal.

They are actively formulating a plan to address this concern and in the upcoming year the area might see less congestion. Increase in vehicle population in the city seems to be one of the major reasons, be it for accidents or congestion.

And a surge in the registration of private vehicles is expected in the coming year as well. Presently, the city boasts 99.8 lakh registered non-transport vehicles, comprising 75.6 lakh two-wheelers and 23.1 lakh personal cars.

Sky deck inspired by banyan tree

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be to provide good footpaths similar to the Tender SURE model to ensure pedestrian safety and convenience," he explained.

Reacting to what the engineer said, a resident noted: "It seems the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will be finally paying heed to the deplorable footpaths in the coming year."

Whitetopping of 43 roads

Along with the aforementioned infra, the BBMP will be undertaking whitetopping of 43 roads, spanning 160 km. Chief engineer (projects), M Lokesh, said the municipal body is estimating the project to cost Rs 800 crore.

Meanwhile, Prahalad further added that in December, a two-day exhibition and convention titled 'Namma Raste' was organised by the BBMP, in partnership with the World Resources Institute, India, under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety, which stressed the importance of pedestrian-friendly pathways and their role in ensuring first and last mile connectivity.

The sky deck

On the other hand, Lokesh noted that the plan for the sky deck as earlier proposed by deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar will be looked into in the coming year.

Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru development minister, in October, had discussed the project, including its financial viability and land requirement.

He had directed the urban development department officials to identify 8-10 acres of land in the city for the landmark structure. However, officials told Bangalore Mirror that the space for the construction of the sky deck is yet to be finalised.

"If the project comes through next year, it will be the tallest viewing tower in the entire nation. The sky deck has been conceived by Austria-based design and architecture firm Coop Himmelb(l)au, which is known for constructions such as the Musee des Confluences (Lyon) in France and European Central Bank (Frankfurt) in Germany, in association with World Design Organisation (WDO), in Bengaluru.

The design is said to have been inspired by the natural growth of a banyan tree – its hanging roots and blooming flowers," said an official.

Rejuvenation of lakes

Meanwhile, an official from the lakes department of the BBMP said their priority is to complete all the ongoing works. Alongside, the department plans to develop Hebbal, Nagavara and Madiwala waterbodies.

"The grants have already been allotted for the Madiwala Lake while we have sent proposals for the Nagavara and Hebbal lakes. These are the larger lakes of Bengaluru.

Based on the availability of grants, we will further take up the development of other undeveloped lakes that fall within our jurisdiction. This is our target for the upcoming year," an official said.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Sanitation back

During the initial waves of rising covid cases, BBMP took action by deploying sanitising tankers in hopes of curbing the virus. As cases resurfaced, sanitation efforts returned to Sadashivanagar, prompting speculation about why the area was the chosen one and leaving many puzzled. We are still wondering why the area was chosen. Any guesses?

Serious question

In the middle of a covid sub-committee briefing, a journalist brought up the alleged covid irregularities raised by BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao dismissed it initially, but when pressed about Yatnal's accusations against the previous BJP government, Rao promised answers, citing an ongoing committee investigation. Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil reassured, "We pledge 100% transparency, ensuring no repetition of such issues."

Poetic turn

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar transformed into a poet, delivering a poetic sting to BJP and JD(S) with an allegory linked to the government's guarantee scheme. The verses portrayed how the successful implementation of five guarantee schemes weakened the opposition, with phrases like "Five guarantees make the hand strong" and "Karnataka is progressive. Karnataka is enlightened."

Nostalgic

Former Union Minister and Bengaluru North MP DV Sadanada Gowda recounted being scolded by BS Yediyurappa for reporting allegations against MLC G Janardhana Reddy to the Congress high command. Despite appreciation from BJP's national president Rajnath Singh, Yediyurappa reportedly disapproved of taking the issue to the national level.

Gold digger

A rumour stirred chaos as hundreds searched for gold coins in Megalahatti near Molakalmuru taluk. The false belief in buried treasure spread like wildfire, diverting wedding guests to join the hunt. Disappointed and empty-handed, they realized the wedding feast had concluded during their futile pursuit.

Raising hands

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his distinctive style, touted the benefits of the Shakti scheme for women during a programme. When met with hesitation from the audience, an irked CM playfully accused only the emcee of benefiting from the free travel, leaving others completely blank.

-Sridhar Vivan

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

OTHER VACANCIES

PART TIME JOBS

GLOBAL International India's No.1 Registered Club. Part-Time Job,M&F Daily Income 10,000 to 15,000 PF & ESI. WhtsApp 9886958499/9886959077

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, L M JAYACHNADRAN R/at No.1344, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Matkar Line, Arabic College Post Bangalore-560045, have changed my name to M ABDUL HAMMED vide affidavit dated:23/12/2023 Before Notary S.R.Nanjunda Swamy Bangalore.

I Ram Singh S/O Vishal Singh residing #101 2B Suncity Gloria apt Carmelaram, Chikkabellandur Sarjapur Bangalore 560035 has changed my name as Kushagra Singh, Sworn before Advocate & Notary Anand Kumar J. Date 29.12.2023

I Manjubhargavi Ramasubramanian D/O, Ramasubramanian Pasupathy R/o Villa 655,phase 2a,the Empyrean,near Chikka Tirupathi,malur-563160 have changed my name to Manju Bhargavi.

WE Arpan Goel and Priyanka Agarwal R/o Prestige Kew Gardens, Flat 1722, Yemlur, Bengaluru - 560037 have changed our minor daughter's name from Misha Goel to Dhvani Goel for all purposes

I, Vidyashree Seetharamaiah D/o Seetharamaiah Bannerghatta Narayanappa, R/o No. 268 7th cross, 6th Block Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560072 have changed my name to Vivi Seetharamaiah

I, Jagdev Raghuvanshi S/o Balak Ram Singh R/o B-2/769, Gali No. 29, Harsh Vihar, North East Delhi- 110093 have changed my name to Jagdev

LOST & FOUND

I Bimal Kumar Hota, have lost my Original share Certificate of Reliance Industries Ltd. The registered holder thereof has applied to the company for the issue of Duplicate Certificate. Certificate No:57984144 No of Shares:36 Folio no: 107273517

CELEBRATIONS

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

"IRSHADS PROPERTY MATTERS" WISHES Clients, Developers, Associates & Well-Wishers "A VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR "
98458-41310 / 25591629
www.irshads property.com

THE TIMES GROUP

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

real estate

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

MYSORE

SITES @ Mysore DTCP 'A' Khata, RERA, 90% Bank Loan, Immd Reg, off Hunsur Rd, 5Min: NH Yelwala. 10min: Ring Rd, Infosys,vijaya ngr,15min Palace/Railway Station. GSS: www.gssprojects.in 9845287802 / 8050001571.

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

PADMANABHA NAGAR

HIGH-END quality & Vaastu compliant 3BHK flats for sale.Opp Kadirenahalli petrol pump.Ready2move. Rs.76 & 77 lks+Reg 9739703182,9739702982.

GET NOTICED

BJS भारतीय जैन संघटना BHARATIYA JAIN SANGHATANA BENGALURU

FREE PLASTIC SURGERY CAMP

SURGERIES WILL BE DONE BY AMERICA'S PLASTIC SURGEON DR. LARRY WEINSTEIN

16, 17, 18 January 2024

CAMP LOCATION SANTOSH HOSPITAL Coles Park, Pulkeshi Nagar, Bengaluru

TYPES OF SURGERY
- CLEFT LIP
- MACROSTOMIA
- CLEFT NOSE
- HAIR LIP
- PTOSIS
- SYNDACTYLY

NOTE: BURN CASES & WHITE PATCHES WILL NOT BE TREATED

Note: It is necessary for the Patient to come for examination on an empty stomach

Free Operations will be Done for Selected Patients in the Camp

HELPLINE NUMBER FOR PRE REGISTRATION

SURESH JAIN 9341222142 | ASHISH JAIN 9844250334 | DHANRAJ JAIN 9845350911 | SUNIL JAIN 9844111420

Send the Patient's Name, Address, Mobile Number, Photo of the disease to the above number.

SPONSORED BY KANUNGA GROUP OF COMPANY

BJP MP Pratap Simha's brother arrested in tree felling case

The forest department officials have arrested Vikram Simha, brother of BJP MP Pratap Simha, in connection with an alleged tree felling case, officials said on Sunday.

Simha represents Mysore-Kodagu of Karnataka and he is the former President of the Yuva Morcha Bharatiya Janata Party.

As per the officials, Vikram Simha has been accused of felling trees in a forest area in Karnataka's Hassan district. He was arrested on Saturday from Bengaluru, the officials said.

Further details on the matter are awaited.

MP Pratap Simha was recently under scrutiny from the opposition over allegations of providing Parliament passes to individuals responsible for triggering panic in the Lok Sabha with gas canisters on December 13. **ANI**

Wanted: 400 acres for 'comprehensive' waste management

Solid waste management entity seeks land to set up waste treatment plant as city stares at mounting pile of trash

An annual expenditure of around Rs 5,000 crore on waste management has not helped matters much

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

This year brings new challenges in waste management. Amid the rapid filling of landfills due to an increase in the city's waste generation, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has approached the State Government, seeking 400 acres to establish a comprehensive solid waste treatment plant. Despite an annual expenditure of around Rs 5,000 crore on waste collection, transportation, and disposal, the trash problem continues to persist.

The existing seven landfills in the city are inadequate to accommodate Bengaluru's escalating waste. The city heavily relies on landfills for garbage disposal, and once a landfill reaches capacity, finding an abandoned quarry for waste disposal becomes a formidable challenge. The proposed solution is to establish a large-scale unit capable of processing wet, dry, sanitary, and animal waste in a centralised location.

In a recent meeting with Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge minister DK Shivakumar, the issue of Bengaluru's waste problem was thoroughly discussed. The outcome of the deliberations was the decision to establish four comprehensive waste treatment centres, with each plant allocated 100 acres, strategically positioned in four directions of the city.

Bengaluru generates about 3,000 - 3,500 tonnes of solid waste daily. Approximately 58.5% of the city's waste generation is from households, 49.7% from commercial establishments and 6.8% from street sweeping. The per capita waste generation from regular households in the city is 309g and that from slums is 300g. The BBMP is carrying out collection, street sweeping, transportation, processing and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste from generators. BBMP has a system of door to door collection for collecting the MSW. The MSW collected has to be processed before land filling. However, the system is not working fool proof and results in many people throwing trash on the roadside.

A BBMP official said, "BBMP is providing daily waste collection service to all the households, slums, shops and establishments. About 80% of the collection and transportation activities have been outsourced. Auto tipper/autos and pushcarts are used for the primary collection. An auto tipper has been provided for every 1,000 households and a pushcart for every 200 households.

About 20,000 pourakarmikas are being utilised (both BBMP and contractors) in door to door collection, street sweeping and transportation. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Residential Welfare Association (RWAs) are also involved in collection, segregation and decentralised composting in some of the areas. A separate system has been put in place to collect waste from large waste producers like hotels, marriage halls, markets, offices, etc. "

As per the High Court directions, the BBMP has notified bulk generators to segregate waste into different categories and manage their waste either in-situ or to utilise the services of BBMP Empanelled Service Providers. "BBMP is facilitating the bulk generators of waste with options of authorised service providers to engage for collection, transportation and processing of MSW. SWM Service Provider Empanelment programme aims to create a platform for solid waste service providers to enlist themselves. It will also ensure that bulk generators can meet the requirement of segregated waste processing in a responsible decentralised way."

52 acres identified

A BBMP official said, they are in the process of setting up a land bank to manage trash and are constantly on the lookout for new land as they face opposition from residents of areas where current trash points are located. Meanwhile, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner K. Dayanand said that he had received a request from the BBMP to identify land, and he has consequently identified 52 acres . The BBMP is restricted to using this land only for establishing the solid waste management unit and for nothing else. The BBMP has been told to fence the land to prevent encroachment. According to sources, three places have been identified in Jigani hobli: 16.06 acres in Hulimangala village, 18.34 acres in Mahalingpur, and 7 acres in Bingipura. All of these places were once quarries that have now been abandoned.

Political parties have caught case of LS poll fever

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Political landscape in Karnataka witnessed a significant shift with the Congress scoring a big win in the Assembly elections. However, the real litmus test for all political parties looms large in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In the previous Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had nearly swept all seats, with the exceptions of Bengaluru Rural, Hassan, and Mandya. The challenge for the BJP in the upcoming polls is monumental—to retain 25 out of the 28 seats.

Speculation remains rife on power sharing in the Congress

The Congress, buoyed by its success in the Assembly polls, is gearing up to make all-out efforts to secure a majority of seats in the Parliament. The stage is set for a direct confrontation between the BJP and its allies versus the Congress. Adding an intriguing dimension to the politics, the Janata Dal (Secular) has announced its intention to form an alliance with the BJP this time around.

Sources indicate that the JD(S) is pushing to field its candidates in at least five constituencies in the LS polls while leaving the remaining seats for the BJP.

JD(S)'s link with BJP has caused some internal discord

However, the alliance announcement has triggered rebellion within the JD(S). The former state unit president, CM Ibrahim, openly challenged the influential Gowda family.

This discord has led to some former JD(S) MLAs defecting to the Congress.

As political analysts scrutinise the evolving landscape, they predict that 2024 will be a critical year for the BJP. Internal disgruntlement within the saffron party

Not all was smooth during selection of BJP state president

is palpable, with notable figures such as ST Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar seen hobnobbing with Congress. The Congress even claims that several BJP MLAs are inclined to return to their ranks. If the party manages to secure a substantial number of seats in the Lok Sabha polls, disgruntled MLAs might align with the party, contingent on Narendra Modi retaining power at the Centre. However, a shift in power dynamics in Delhi could potentially lead to a reshuffling of equations at the state level as well.

Amidst these political maneuvers, attention is also on BY Vijayendra, the son of former CM Yediyurappa, who successfully secured the position of the BJP state president.

The appointment, however, has not been without controversy. BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal accused Yediyurappa of engaging in strategic politics with the Congress for personal gain. Yatnal claimed that Yediyurappa blackmailed the party high command, threatening not to campaign for the LS polls unless his son was appointed.

Insiders close to Yediyurappa suggest that his primary focus is now on positioning Vijayendra as the undisputed leader of the influential Lingayat community, harbouring aspirations for the CM's role should the BJP come to power in the state.

On another front, persistent rumours about power-sharing negotiations between prominent Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar continue to circulate. However, there is no official confirmation on any of this. Speculation is rife that post LS polls, discussions about a potential shift in power dynamics within the Congress may come to the forefront. Consequently, 2024 emerges as a pivotal year for the Congress party, determining the continuity of its leadership.

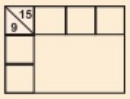
BBMP polls soon?

Bengaluru awaits the long-overdue Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) polls. The question of whether 2024 will finally see it happen adds another layer of uncertainty to the political landscape.

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

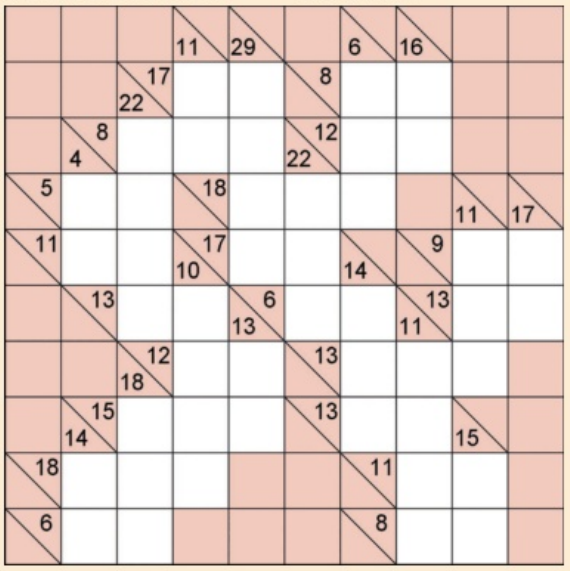
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

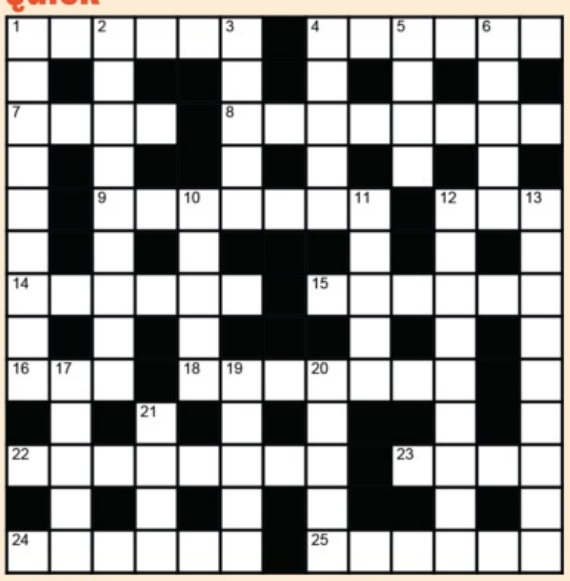


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A male relative (6)
4 Fissures or crevices (6)
7 Young woman (4)
8 Blue gem (8)
9 Declared, affirmed or asserted (7)
12 ___ up : receive enthusiastically? (3)
14 Without pretence (6)
15 It neutralises acid (6)
16 Have a meal (3)
18 Peevishly (7)
22 Indian queen or empress (8)
23 Request for permission (3,1)
24 Road in town lined with houses (6)
25 Paper handkerchief (6)

DOWN

1 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
2 Everlasting (9)
3 Fritter away (5)
4 A thicket or small wood (5)
5 Sore, as muscles (4)
6 Oriental peninsula (5)
10 Fragrant shrub (5)
11 Toy figures (5)
12 2012, 2016, etc (4,5)
13 Rudimentary, of olden times (9)
17 Away from (5)
19 Cook in an oven (5)
20 It is no use crying over such milk (5)
21 England's Harry ___ (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS N

FI NZF OKPGT XI QZUG QKT KFXGOOKCGFRG IA CIIY EZKXQ JHGTXKIFGY, GTSGRKZOOB KE QG QZT YIHLXT ZLIHX KX QKNTGOE.

Linemaro

You are warmer than you look

Mindchow

The ego's inflations and deflations, grandiosity and low self-esteem make it unfit as a stabilising factor in the psychic economy

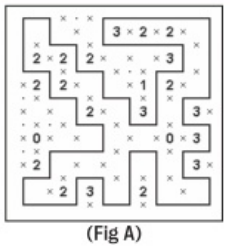
Joke of the day

A friend of mine done voodoo acupuncture. You don't have to go

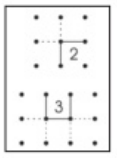
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

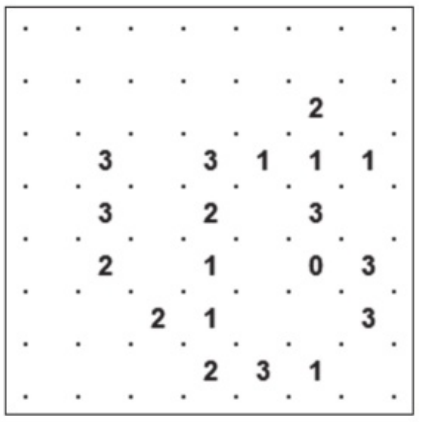


(Fig B) Not Allowed

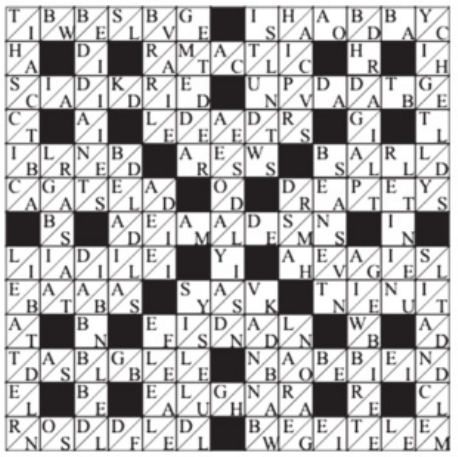
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				L

ACROSS

1 Asset; 6 Iotas; 7 Darns; 8 An lee; 9 All PE

DOWN

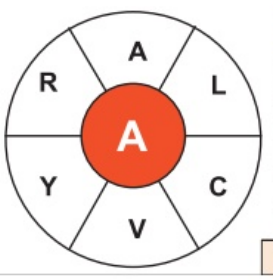
1 Talon; 2 A Nasa; 3 R step; 4 Isled; 5 Lease

Mensapuzzle

What number in the grid is three places away from itself less two, two places away from itself divided by two, three places away from itself less five and three places away from itself multiplied by three?

43	6	16	12	24
2	22	1	4	9
46	30	48	5	13
38	8	36	7	3
11	20	14	10	15

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8		2				9
	2			8			4	
6		9			4		5	
			3	6		5	9	
	6						7	
	5	4		1	8			
	8		9			7		6
	7			5			2	
1				3		4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

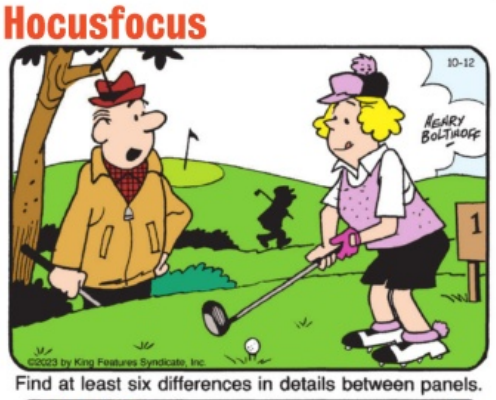
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2
2 4 8 8

Medium = 18
1 2 7 9

Hard = 18
4 5 6 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

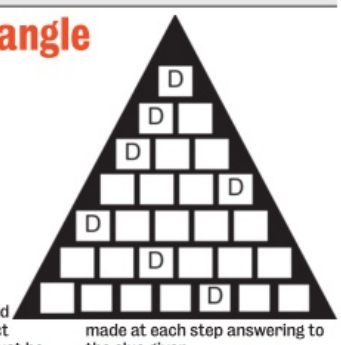
Differences: 1. Number is lower on sign. 2. Golf club is shorter. 3. Cap is different. 4. Cloud is larger. 5. Sweater vest neckline is different. 6. Jacket is zipped higher.

Riddler

Which former U.S. President might DRAG FOLDER?

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Delaware, abbr.
3 Simba's home
4 Dispatch
5 Eats
6 Broadens
7 Cheat



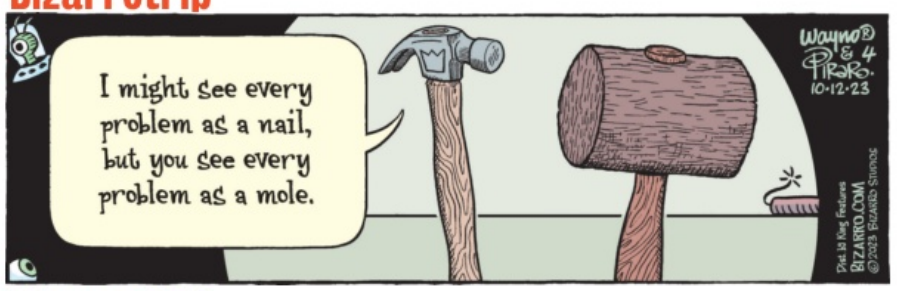
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HOW IS TEAM RED ALREADY IN THE LEAD?!
OMG!!! TEAM YELLOW'S COUNTING THEIR STEPS! THEY CAN WIN!
NOOOOO!!!
SORRY, HEART. BETTER LUCK NEXT YEAR.
YEAH. NEXT YEAR...
FLASHBACK FIN.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may experience peace of mind. You may plan to invest some capital in a business, which may increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in family life. Singles are likely to find suitable matches. Love birds may make the decision to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be very happy and your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to see some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work, in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate work that was postponed. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull and may face some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments into any business. It is also advised that you don't start any new ventures. You are likely to face losses in the business. Your gains are likely to convert into losses.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may get some business orders which may be profitable in the near future. You may implement some new ideas at your work. New partnerships may come into the picture. You may be busy with your work and it may make you mentally tired. It affects your domestic life too.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you perform well at your job and your colleagues may cooperate with you. Your performance in the job may be good so you may be able to complete postponed projects on time. You may lend money for some investment purpose. Job seekers may get new jobs. Positive news for those affected by old health issues is likely.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the situation is okay and people around you may now respond to you. But you are advised not to take a life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in case of an unavoidable situation. You may face some difficulties to get gains. Somehow blessings from elders may help you come out from this situation. Your confusion in choosing goals may be over today.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today tasks remain incomplete and you may become a victim of mood swings. Your patience may be tested many times and silly mistakes confuse you and prevent you from concluding your work. Love birds find themselves to be confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment with your spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose their concentration.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you will be glad and will be able to maintain a balance between your earning and expenditure which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit elders or a religious place.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your energy levels will be high so you will be happy and optimistic and able fulfil your desires with the help of hard work. You will plan to go for a trip with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will see a good new opportunity in terms of studies.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today until late afternoon the day is not good. You may feel unhappy and become nervous, but from noon onwards, you will be happier and internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You should avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finance, profession and studies. You may face self-respect issues with your spouse and need to keep patience to avoid happy moments from being converted into bad. Love birds will plan for short trips.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your tendency to overspend will affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front also. You should avoid lending money. You are advised to postpone making important decisions in real estate and other asset issues. You should try to avoid a tendency of running away from your responsibilities.

KIDZONE

Denisha J, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Chaheti Choudhary, 11 Years, Ryan International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2·4 + 2·9 x ½·4
2·4 + 2·(9 - 4)
16 + 32 = 48

BULL'S EYE
CAVALRY, clay, lacy, larva, lava, racy, vary

STRIKE OUT

T	W	E	L	V	E	S	H	A	B	B	Y			
A	D	A	M	A	T	I	H	I						
C	A	D	D	I	E	U	P	D	A	T	E			
T	I	L	E	A	D	S	G	L						
I	R	E	D	R	E	S	B	A	L	D				
C	A	S	E	D	O	R	E	T	E	S				
B	A	I	M	L	E	S	S	N						
L	A	D	L	E	I	A	E	G	I	S				
L	A	N	D	E	D	B	E	E	T	L	E			
E	E	E	L	G	A	R	E	C						
D	A	B	B	L	E	B	O	B	I	N				
A	B	F	I	N	A	L	B	A						
E	T	A	S	Y	A	K	T	I	N	T				
L	A	D	L	E	I	A	E	G	I	S				
O	P	E	N	L	Y	A	L	K	A	L	I			
H	N	I	O	E	R									
R	A	L	L	E	G	E	D	L	A	P				
A	M	T	S	Y	E									
G	I	R	L	S	A	P	P	H	I	R	E			
N	E	P	H	E	W	C	R	A	C	K	S			
S	T	R	E	T	C	H	T	I	S	S	U	E		

FAST FIVE

T	A	S	S	E
O	S	T	I	A
N	A	R	D	S
A	N	E	L	E
L	A	P	E	L

RIDDLER
Gerald Ford

QUICK
1. STRETCH
2. MAIDEN
3. ALKALI
4. ANAGRAM
5. BOOBIRD
6. FINAL
7. BAKE
8. TINT
9. YAK
10. CROSSLY
11. PENNY
12. ALKALI
13. ORE
14. LEGED
15. ALLEGED
16. MAYA
17. PAPHIRE
18. SAPPHIRE
19. CRACKS

MENSA PUZZLE
8

QUOTE UNCODE
No man likes to have his intelligence or good faith questioned, especially if he has doubts about it himself.

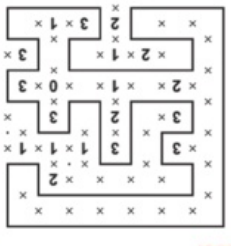
SUDOKU

1	9	6	2	3	7	4	8	5
4	7	3	8	5	6	9	2	1
2	8	5	9	4	1	7	3	6
9	5	4	7	1	8	2	6	3
3	6	2	4	9	5	1	7	8
8	1	7	3	6	2	5	9	4
6	3	9	1	7	4	8	5	2
5	2	1	6	8	9	3	4	7
7	4	8	5	2	3	6	1	9

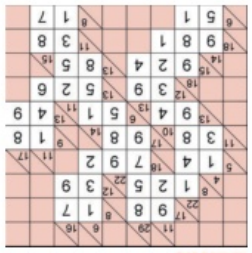
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, DE, Den, Dines, Send, Widens, Swindle.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 8 - 2 + 4 = 2
Medium
2 + 7 + 9 x 1 = 18
Hard
5 x 4 - 6 + 4 = 18

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 17, Issue No 1 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Old title, new script

Many Kannada film lovers, especially senior citizens, know of the film Gange Gowri released in 1967. Starring Dr Rajkumar, Leelavathi, and Bharathi, the movie was a huge success. Now, another movie with the same title Gange Gowri is ready to hit the screen.

BA Purushotham Omkar is helming the movie. "I have already helmed 27 Kannada movies and 23 of them are mythological movies and four are commercial. I am trying to showcase this mythological movie in a different way. I want to narrate to the audience about the connection between Gange and Gowri. I am trying to compare Kailasa as an embodiment of harmony," said Omkar.

Comedy drama

Sumanth N, who has worked as associate director for around 10 Kannada movies, is set to debut as a director in Sandalwood with a yet to be titled Kannada movie. Gurunandan, who became famous for his performance in the film First Rank Raju, will play the lead in this comedy drama.

Sumanth told BM that he was trained as an engineer and used to make short films during his college days. "My passion towards movies made me join as associate director," said Sumanth.

He said he wrote the script for this movie keeping Gurunandan in mind. "It is an action drama. I thought Gurunandan was the right choice to play the lead. I met Gurunandan at the 100 days celebrations of his movie First Rank Raju and told him then that I wanted to write a script for him. Now, I am happy that dream is fulfilled," he said.

Off on a holiday

B-Town's power couple Katrina and Vicky were jetting off

Bollywood couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal on Sunday were spotted at the airport here, as they jetted off for their New Year celebrations, giving major couple goals to their fans.

Vicky was seen holding the hand of his ladylove adorably, as they walked inside the airport premises.

The couple will be ringing in the New Year together, as they fly to an undisclosed location.

Katrina gave major fashion goals, as she was spotted wearing a white shirt, black trousers and a black overcoat.

Her hair was styled in a wavy manner, and she completed the look with black sunglasses, and boots.

On the other hand Vicky looked dapper in a black tee shirt, matching denim jeans, and a grey jacket. He completed his outfit with a cap and sunglasses.

The duo posed for the paparazzi, and extended their warm greetings for the New Year. The lovebirds flashed their cute smiles, while holding each other's hands.

The video of their airport arrival went viral in no time, with fans showering love for the power couple. Vicky and Katrina had tied the knot in December 2021 in a traditional Hindu ceremony at Six Senses Resort, Fort Barwara in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Vicky was last seen in 'Dunki'. The comedy drama stars Shah Rukh Khan in the lead **–IANS**